



Wisconsin Department of Transportation
www.dot.wisconsin.gov

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September 17, 2004

WisDOT Consultants and Subconsultants

Re: New DBE Contract Goals

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) is implementing changes to disadvantaged business enterprise (DBE) subcontracting goals in order to improve the quality of opportunities for DBE participation in consultant engineering contracts. Effective October 1, 2004, the Department will be requiring 20% DBE participation in federally funded consultant contracts over \$400,000. The new contract goals replace previous contract goals requiring 10% DBE participation on federally funded design contracts over \$100,000.

The new contract goals will increase the significance of the roles of DBE subconsultants in larger highway improvement projects. The Department's first program-wide goals on construction engineering contracts are intended to assist emerging DBE firms' development of construction engineering capacity by providing increased opportunities to work with established construction engineering consultants.

The new goals will apply to all federally funded consultant contracts advertised after October 1, 2004. All contracts submitted for approval after January 1, 2005 will be subject to the new goals regardless of the solicitation of interest date unless the Statewide Consultant Engineer approves an exception.

In addition, the goals will apply to all construction engineering contracts with selections that are based on consultant interviews scheduled for October 5, 2004. Consultants targeting projects with potential fees exceeding \$400,000 should be prepared to address DBE utilization at the construction interviews.

While subcontracting goals will no longer apply to design contracts under \$400,000, consultants are encouraged to continue utilizing DBE subconsultants. All WisDOT contracts require prime consultants to provide maximum opportunity for DBE subconsultants to participate in federally funded contracts.

The Department has a strong tradition of working with the consultant industry to meet our goals for DBE participation in consultant contracts. We look forward to working together to achieve success in expanding opportunities for DBE firms to deliver our programs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randy Knoche". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first and last names being clearly legible.

Randy Knoche
Contract Manager